SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it contended that if the coconut trees are not tapped, they will yield a larger income? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" I do not know whether it will yield a larger income, but there will be some income. Apart from that, that is not the only consideration. The main consideration is to enforce prohibition."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You will get juice from the coconut."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" In view of the reply of the Hon. Minister that permission will be given to co-operative societies for tapping these trees, does Government think that all these hereditary tappers will go out of employment? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Sir, almost every measure of Government really involves some sacrifice on the part of somebody or other. In this case, Government are trying to find alternative employment for these people. After all, this should not be the main consideration for the Government but Government has to consider that it is likely to be abused if tapping of the trees is allowed."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Why should co-operative societies be given preference over these hereditary tappers. Is this the panacea for all evils? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Co-operative societies are organized for the purpose of helping men to manufacture jaggery under some special restrictions."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" To throw these people out of employment probably."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know what steps have been taken to form co-operative societies? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" A number of co-operative societies are being formed in some of the districts."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid we are going away from the main question."

Mr. Manicka Naicker, Secretary of the Chingleput District Board.

* 68 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Manicka Naicker, who was Secretary of the Chingleput District Board till recently, has not had any qualifications to occupy the post of the Secretary;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that exemption had to be given to him to hold even the post of a clerk of the District Board;

(*c*) the reason why he was chosen for the secretary's post when there were more qualified and senior men in the district board service;

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(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Provident Fund accounts were overdrawn in the month of November 1946;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that on the order of the Special Officer, the cash book and other registers were tampered with and vouchers destroyed and false vouchers substituted;

(*f*) whether any charges were framed against him by the Special Officer;

(*g*) whether the date for enquiry was fixed for 16th January 1947;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Chingleput district who had to hand over charge on the 16th has advanced the date of enquiry to the 11th January 1947;

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the Collector reduced him from the secretaryship to an ordinary clerk;

(*j*) whether the Government consider that it is sufficient punishment for the charges framed against him; and

(*k*) whether the Government propose to order fresh enquiry and deal with the case properly?

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—" (*a*) Sri R. C. Manicka Naicker continues to be the Secretary of the Chingleput District Board. He is qualified to hold the post of Secretary.

" (*b*) In its Resolution No. IX, dated 26th February 1929, the Chingleput District Board exempted Sri R. C. Manicka Naicker from the qualification prescribed for clerks as he was not qualified for the post under the District Board's Service regulations then in force.

" (*c*) Promotion to the post of Secretary which is a selection post is made on grounds of merit, seniority being considered only where the qualifications and merit are approximately equal. The promotion of Sri R. C. Manicka Naicker as Secretary was made on this basis.

" (*d*) The amount to the credit of the Provident Fund Account of the Chingleput District Board was overdrawn to the extent of Rs. 20,485–3–11 in the month of November 1946.

" (*e*) The answer is in the affirmative. The order of the Special Officer, the cash book, the posting register and bill register were tampered with and a paid voucher for Rupees 13,900 was destroyed and a fresh one for the same amount substituted.

" (*f*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*g*) & (*h*) Sri R. C. Manicka Naicker asked for a personal hearing when replying to the charges. The date of hearing was first fixed for 16th January 1947 and subsequently advanced to 11th January 1947 at the request of Sri R. C. Manicka Naicker.

" (*i*) The answer is in the negative. Sri R. C. Manicka Naicker was punished with stoppage of increment for one year without effect on future increments.

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"(j) The Government consider that the punishment awarded is inadequate.

"(k) Yes."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know from the Minister what his educational qualifications were when he was appointed?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether Hon. Minister is aware that Mr. M. C. Rajah who was one of the previous Presidents considered that he was not qualified even to hold the post of a clerk."

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Notice, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I ask who was responsible for the tampering of accounts and books? —whether it was Mr. Manicka Naicker or somebody else punished along with Manicka Naicker."

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Notice, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know whether any specific charges were framed against Mr. Manicka Naicker? From the reply given by the Hon. Minister, may I know whether the Collector held an enquiry, what was the finding of the enquiry and whether the Collector's enquiry revealed that it was Mr. Manicka Naicker who was responsible for the tampering of accounts and other books?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" I take the information from the hon. Member. I am sorry I have just had the file and I am not in a position to give more details."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Hon. Minister call for the papers and examine what the Collector's report was?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Yes, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know what was the punishment awarded by the Collector to Mr. Manicka Naicker?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It is in the answer given, i.e., stoppage of increment for one year."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" The Hon. Minister said just now that he has not seen the records. Without knowing what the real findings of the Collector are, how does the Hon. Minister consider that the punishment was not sufficient and on what basis he has been punished?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" The facts I have stated are enough to show that the stoppage of increment was absolutely inadequate."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member forgets that this Minister is not responsible for the answer." (Laughter.)

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ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister has not given the answer to my question. I asked whether it was Mr. Manicka Naicker who was responsible for the tampering of accounts and books and other documents. If that were not so, how did the Government consider that the punishment was not sufficient for him? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not think you need worry this Minister any further about this question. I am sure he has not gone into all the records."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether on the request of Mr. Manicka Naicker the Collector advanced the enquiry from 16th to 11th for the mere reason that the Collector was going to hand over charge on the 16th? Is it justifiable for a Collector to favour a certain person by advancing the enquiry and finishing the case? "

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Are we to understand that the present Ministry is not responsible for what had taken place and they will not be responsible for what takes place in future? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Certainly not."

Assessment of sales tax by Assistant Commercial Tax officers.

* 69 *Q.*—SRI O. P. RAMASWAMI REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present Commercial Tax Officer, South Arcot, has instructed the Assistant Commercial Tax Officers that each of them should secure a fresh assessment each day and increase the tax of the present assessees and that consequently the Assistant Commercial Tax Officers are each day assessing to tax people who have no assessable turn-over and people are unnecessarily harassed?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" The answer is in the negative."

Power to grant poverty certificates to members of the Legislature.

* 70 *Q.*—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government propose to empower the members of the Legislature to grant poverty certificates to poor students who deserve concession in respect of school fees?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" This question was considered by Government before and they came to the conclusion that it is advisable to restrict the power to issue certificates to persons over whom the Government has official or departmental control."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Does the Hon. Minister think that gazetted officers are in a position to know the conditions of people with regard to poverty and riches and is it possible for ordinary people to approach these persons? "